

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An apparatus comprising:
2 a display;
3 a first input key; and
4 operating logic associated with the first input key to display on said display
5 one or more emoticons for selection by a user, responsive to a selection of said first
6 input key, when the apparatus is operating in a text mode.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first input key is an input key for
2 entering an "*" (asterisk) when the apparatus is operating in a voice mode.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first input key is an input key for
2 entering a "#" (pound) when the apparatus is operating in a voice mode.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first input key is an input key for
2 entering a digit when the apparatus is operating in a voice mode.
- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises a 12-key
2 input key pad having 12 input keys arranged in a 4x3 array configuration for entry of
3 at least a selected one of alphabet and numeric data, and said first input key being
4 one of said 12 input keys.

- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said first input key is the input key
2 occupying a fourth row and first column position of said 4x3 array configuration.
- 1 7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein column positions of said 4x3 array
2 configuration are determined in a selected one of a left-to-right and a right-to-left
3 manner.
- 1 8. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein row positions of said 4x3 array
2 configuration are determined in a selected one of a top-to-bottom and a bottom-to-
3 top manner.
- 1 9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein in addition to said first input key, said
2 apparatus further comprises a 12-key input key pad having 12 input keys arranged
3 in a 4x3 array configuration for entry of at least a selected one of alphabet and
4 numeric data.
- 1 10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said operating logic is designed to display
2 said emoticons for selection in a selected one of a first left-to-right then top-to-
3 bottom display arrangement, a second right-to-left then top-to-bottom display
4 arrangement, a third top-to-bottom then left-to-right display arrangement, and a
5 fourth top-to-bottom then right-to-left display arrangement.
- 1 11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said operating logic is designed to place a
2 current focus on one of the one or more emoticons displayed for selection.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said operating logic is further designed to
2 change said placement of current focus to another one of said one or more
3 emoticons displayed for selection responsive to a user input.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said operating logic is designed to
2 perform said changes in accordance with the order the one or more emoticons are
3 displayed for selection.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said first input key is also employed to
2 provide said user input.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said apparatus further comprises at least
2 one other input key, and said at least one other input key is employed to provide
3 said user input.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said operating logic is further designed to
2 automatically select the emoticon with the current focus upon occurrence of a
3 selected one of elapse of a predetermined amount of time after the first input key
4 was last selected, and selection another input key.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said operating logic is further designed to
2 select the emoticon with the current focus, responsive to a user input

1 18. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of said one or more emoticons
2 comprises a plurality of characters.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said placement of a current focus on a
2 first of displayed emoticons comprises highlighting all characters of the first
3 emoticon.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said highlighting comprises a selected
2 one of underlying, italicizing and employing bold faces for the characters .

1 21. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said selecting of the emoticon with the
2 current focus comprises selecting all characters of the emoticon with the current
3 focus.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of said one or more emoticons
2 comprises a pixel map based single graphical symbol.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises:
2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions
3 designed to implement said operating logic; and
4 a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming
5 instruction.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is a communication device.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said communication device is a wireless
2 mobile phone.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus further comprises facilities
2 for adding an emoticon to, or subtracting an emoticon from said one or more
3 emoticons to be displayed for user selection.

1 27. A communication device comprising:
2 a display;
3 a first input key; and
4 operating logic associated with the first input key to display on said display
5 one or more emoticons for selection by a user, including placing a current focus on a
6 first of the displayed one or more emoticons, responsive to a selection of said first
7 input key, and to automatically select the emoticon having the current focus upon
8 expiration of a predetermined amount of time since the current focus was placed.

1 28. The communication device of claim 27, wherein the first input key is an input
2 key for entering an "*" (asterisk) when the apparatus is operating in a voice mode.

1 29. The communication device of claim 27, wherein the first input key is an input
2 key for entering a "#" (pound) when the apparatus is operating in a voice mode.

1 30. The communication device of claim 27, wherein the first input key is an input
2 key for entering a digit when the apparatus is operating in a voice mode.

1 31. The communication device of claim 27, wherein said apparatus further
2 comprises a 12-key input key pad having 12 input keys arranged in a 4x3 array
3 configuration for entry of at least a selected one of alphabet and numeric data, and
4 said first input key being one of said 12 input keys.

1 32. The communication device of claim 27, wherein in addition to said first input
2 key, said apparatus further comprises a 12-key input key pad having 12 input keys
3 arranged in a 4x3 array configuration for entry of at least a selected one of alphabet
4 and numeric data.

1 33. The communication device of claim 27, wherein said operating logic is
2 designed to display said one or more emoticons for selection in a selected one of a
3 first left-to-right then top-to-bottom display arrangement, a second right-to-left then
4 top-to-bottom display arrangement, a third top-to-bottom then left-to-right display
5 arrangement, and a fourth top-to-bottom then right-to-left display arrangement.

1 34. The communication device of claim 27, wherein said operating logic is further
2 designed to change said placement of current focus to another one of said one or
3 more emoticons displayed for selection responsive to a user input.

1 35. The communication device of claim 34, wherein said operating logic is
2 designed to perform said changes in accordance with the order the one or more
3 emoticons are displayed for selection.

1 36. The communication device of claim 34, wherein said first input key is also
2 employed to provide said user input.

1 37. The communication device of claim 34, wherein said apparatus further
2 comprises at least one other input key, and said at least one other input key is
3 employed to provide said user input.

1 38. The communication device of claim 27, wherein each of said one or more
2 emoticons comprises a plurality of characters.

1 39. The communication device of claim 38, wherein said placement of a current
2 focus on a first of the displayed one or more emoticons comprises highlighting all
3 characters of the first emoticon.

1 40. The communication device of claim 39, wherein said highlighting comprises a
2 selected one of underlying, italicizing and employing bold faces for the characters .

1 41. The communication device of claim 27, wherein said selecting of the
2 emoticon with the current focus comprises selecting all characters of the emoticon
3 with the current focus.

1 42. The communication device of claim 27, wherein each of said one or more
2 emoticons comprises a pixel map based single graphical symbol.

1 43. The communication device of claim 27, wherein said apparatus further
2 comprises:
3 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions
4 designed to implement said operating logic; and
5 a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming
6 instruction.

1 44. The communication device of claim 27, wherein said communication device is
2 a wireless mobile phone.

1 45. A communication device cover comprising:
2 a plurality of input keys including first input key; and
3 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions
4 designed to enable a communication device mated with the communication device
5 cover to display on a display of the communication device one or more emoticons for
6 selection responsive to a selection of said first input key.

1 46. The communication device cover of claim 45, wherein said programming
2 instructions further enable the mated communication device to place a current focus
3 on one of the one or more emoticons displayed for selection.

1 47. The communication device cover of claim 45, wherein said programming
2 instructions further enable the mated communication device to change said
3 placement of current focus to another one of said one or more emoticons displayed
4 for selection responsive to a user input.

1 48. The communication device cover of claim 45, wherein said programming
2 instructions further enable the mated communication device to select the emoticon
3 with the current focus, in a selected one of an automatic manner and a responsive to
4 user input manner.

1 49. The communication device cover of claim 45, wherein said storage medium
2 further having stored therein a plurality of emoticons.

1 50. The communication device cover of claim 45, wherein said storage medium
2 further having stored therein information identifying said first input key.

1 51. The communication device cover of claim 45, wherein each of said one or
2 more emoticons comprises a plurality of characters.

1 52. A communication device cover comprising:
2 a plurality of input keys including first input key; and
3 storage medium having stored therein a resource identifier identifying a
4 location where a plurality of programming instructions may be retrieved for a
5 communication device mated with the communication device cover, wherein the
6 programming instructions are designed to enable the mated communication device
7 to display on a display of the communication device one or more emoticons for
8 selection responsive to a selection of said first input key.

1 53. The communication device cover of claim 52, wherein said programming
2 instructions further enable the mated communication device to place a current focus
3 on one of the one or more emoticons displayed for selection.

1 54. The communication device cover of claim 52, wherein said programming
2 instructions further enable the mated communication device to change said
3 placement of current focus to another one of said one or more emoticons displayed
4 for selection responsive to a user input.

1 55. The communication device cover of claim 52, wherein said programming
2 instructions further enable the mated communication device to select the emoticon
3 with the current focus, in a selected one of an automatic manner and a responsive to
4 user input manner

1 56. The communication device cover of claim 52, wherein said identified location
2 further having stored therein a plurality of emoticons.

1 57. The communication device cover of claim 52, wherein said identified location
2 further having stored therein information identifying said first input key.

1 58. The communication device cover of claim 52, wherein each of said one or
2 more emoticons comprises a plurality of characters.

1 59. A method comprising:
2 displaying one or more emoticons for selection responsive to a selection of an
3 input key;
4 placing a current focus on a first of the displayed one or more emoticons; and
5 automatically selecting the emoticon with the current focus upon elapse of a
6 predetermined amount of time after the current focus was placed.

1 60. The method of claim 59, wherein the method further comprises moving the
2 current focus to a second of the displayed one or more emoticons responsive to a
3 user input.

1 61. The method of claim 59, wherein each of said one or more emoticons
2 comprises a plurality of characters.

1 62. The method of claim 61, wherein said placing of a current focus on a first of
2 the displayed one or more emoticons comprises highlighting all characters of the first
3 emoticon.

1 63. The method of claim 61, wherein said automatic selection of the emoticon
2 with the current focus comprises automatically selecting all characters of the
3 emoticon with the current focus.

1 64. The method of claim 63, wherein the method further comprises facilitating
2 editing of the automatically selected characters of the emoticon.